



JAMES A. NOYES, Director

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

"To Enrich Lives Through Effective and Caring Service"

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September 18, 2003

IN REPLY PLEASE

REFER TO FILE: WM-3

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012-2713

Dear Supervisors:

**PROPOSITION 40 GRANT AGREEMENT BETWEEN
THE FLOOD CONTROL DISTRICT AND THE SAN GABRIEL AND
LOWER LOS ANGELES RIVERS AND MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY
ALL SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICTS
3 VOTES**

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOUR BOARD:

1. Accept \$50,000 in Proposition 40 grant funds under the San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy Grant Program. This grant will be utilized towards the \$160,000 study on the establishment of economic value for watershed techniques that your Board approved on June 17, 2003.
2. Approve an exception to the County's Grant Policy and authorize the Director of Public Works, or his designee, to act as an agent for the County of Los Angeles when conducting business with the San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy on any and all matters related to this grant, including executing the grant contract and signing the requests for disbursement.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION

Public Works is pursuing projects that contain multiuse watershed management techniques that are environmentally sensitive and provide a higher quality of life to citizens of the County of Los Angeles. Establishing the tangible and intangible

monetary values for enhancements provided by watershed management techniques, in addition to well established traditional benefits delivered by water conservation and flood protection projects, is essential for us to be able to fairly compare alternative projects.

The grant agreement between the San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy and the Los Angeles County Flood Control District will fund a study on the economic value of watershed techniques.

The study is to research and develop a methodology for establishing the monetary value provided by the application of watershed management techniques. This methodology will be useful during the project selection and justification processes when comparing solutions delivered by traditional projects to projects that integrate watershed management techniques. The result of the study will also provide an expanded method to traditional benefit/cost ratio analysis. The evaluation of watershed management techniques includes the quality of life enhancements derived from, but not limited to, multiuse projects, wetland creation, habitat creation and preservation, property value enhancements, flood protection, recreation, landscaping, recycling of green waste/composting, groundwater recharge, improved water and air qualities, and aesthetics.

Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals

This action meets the County's Strategic Plan Goals of Organizational Effectiveness and Fiscal Responsibility because this grant would fund a portion of the total cost to perform the economic value study on tangible and intangible monetary benefits through application of watershed management techniques.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

There will be no impact to the County's General Fund. The \$50,000 Proposition 40 grant will be utilized to fund a portion of the \$160,000 economic value study financed by the Flood Control District Fund.

FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

Delegating authority to the Director of Public Works or his designee to act as an agent for the County when conducting business with the San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy on items related to this grant will streamline the

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project delivery process. Your action will allow the grant agreement to be executed by the Director or his designee in his role as an agent for the County.

ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION

A finding of environmental impact is not required for the execution of this grant agreement.

IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)

The acceptance of the \$50,000 Proposition 40 grant will have no impact on net County cost.

CONCLUSION

Please return three approved copies of this letter to Public Works.

Respectfully submitted

JAMES A. NOYES
Director of Public Works

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cc: Chief Administrative Office
County Counsel